

London Bureau Downgradings

The State Department survey of London Bureau Foreign National positions resulted in 54 out of 78 positions being downgraded. They are:

1. Press Monitoring Unit (21 positions)

All 17 Media Analyst positions (Monitors) were capped at the FSN-09 level.* FSN-10 was the grade to which the bureau's Media Analysts traditionally could aspire when they attained the required expertise and experience. These are truly professional positions for which extensive substantive and linguistic skills are required. Only university graduates who pass a rigid FBIS examination are considered for these positions.

All 3 of the Unit's Editors were downgraded from FSN-11 to FSN-10. These are editorial positions which are virtually identical to GS-12 American Staff editor positions. (State used inapplicable draft Media Analyst Position Standards in reviewing these positions.)**

The Unit's Chief Editor was downgraded from FSN-12 to FSN-11. He oversees the work of the entire Unit (17 Media Analysts and 3 Editors) on a day-to-day basis.**

2. Communications Unit (26 positions)**

The Communications Unit received across the board downgradings: All 19 journeymen down from FSN-07 to FSN-06; all 5 Shift Supervisors from FSN-08 to FSN-07; the Deputy Chief from FSN-09 to FSN-08; and the Unit Chief from FSN-10 to FSN-09. (This is FBIS' largest and most important communications unit.)

3. Tabulation Unit

The Chief was downgraded from FSN-10 to FSN-09. The Deputy Chief was downgraded from FSN-09 to FSN-08.

4. Administrative Section

Four downgradings of one grade and one downgrading of three grades.

5. Technical Staff

One technician downgraded from FSN-08 to FSN-05.

*State "field tested" their own Media Analyst draft Position Standards in reviewing these positions. FBIS does not agree with State's versions.

**FBIS had submitted standards for these positions but State refused to release them to the survey team.